AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 2, as follows:

In a small engine whose driving force is relatively small, a ~~the~~ belt has been used to transmit the driving force to the camshaft. In a large engine whose driving force is relatively large, a ~~the~~ gear has been generally used to transmit the driving force to the camshaft from the engine crankshaft. In the ~~a~~ case where ~~that~~ the gear is used for transmitting the driving force, a helical gear is preferable since the helical gear acts as the biasing means for urging the camshaft in the one axial direction thereof. Further, the helical gear serves to minimize a backrush in mesh so that, when the cam drives the movable member, the driving force transmitted to the cam is relatively even.

Please amend the paragraphs beginning at page 3, line 28, as follows:

It is preferable that an outer diameter of the disk shaped member is larger than that of the cam. With this construction, an area where the disk shaped member and the stopper are in slidable contact with each other becomes larger, compared with an area where the cam and the stopper surface are in slidable contact with each other. Accordingly, face pressure on portions of the disk shaped member and the stopper surface in contact with each other becomes lower. Further, as the disk shaped member is arranged in the same axis to the camshaft, contacting regions of the disk shaped member and the stopper are always the same. Accordingly, frictional wear of the disk shaped member and the stopper surface are limited and lifetimes thereof are prolonged.

It is preferable that a helical gear coaxially rotatable with the camshaft receives a driving force for driving the camshaft. The helical gear serves to limit a backrush

generated when the cam drives a moving member so that the driving force applied to the moving member becomes even. Further, the helical gear acts as the biasing means for biasing the camshaft in the one axial direction thereof. As a result, it is not necessary to employ separately a ~~the~~ biasing means such as a spring.

Please amend the paragraphs beginning at page 6, line 10, as follows:

The camshaft 20 is rotatably held by the housing body 11 and by the bearing cover 14 ~~15~~ via the journal bearing 15. An oil seal 16 seals a clearance between the central bore of the bearing cover 14 and the camshaft 20.

As shown in Fig. 2, the camshaft is integrally provided with a cam 21 whose cross section is formed in circular shape. An axis of the cam 21 is off set from an axis of the camshaft 20. The plunger 30 in the cylinder head 12 and the plunger 30 in the cylinder head 13 ~~30~~ are arranged on radially opposite sides of the camshaft 20 with 180° angular intervals. A square shaped shoe 18 has a flat surface, which faces the plunger 30 ~~20~~ and contacts a flat surface end of a plunger head 30a. The shoe 18 has a center bore into which the cam 21 is inserted via a bush 19 that is slidable between the shoe 18 and the cam 21.

As shown in Fig. 1, a disk shaped member 22 is formed integrally with the camshaft 20 at a place of the camshaft 20 extending forward from and adjacent to the cam 21 to a direction in which a helical gear 23 urges the camshaft 20. The disk shaped member 22 and a bearing portion 20a ~~22a~~ of the camshaft 20, which is held by the journal bearing 15, are coaxially formed. An outer diameter of the disk shaped member 22 is larger that that of the cam 21. A washer 25 is arranged between the disk

shaped member 22 and the bearing cover 14. A surface of the bearing cover 14 on a side of the disk shaped member 22 comes in slidable contact with the disk shaped member 22 via the washer 25 and constitutes a stopper surface. A washer 26 is arranged between the housing 11 and the cam 21 on an opposite side to the disk shaped member 22. The washers 25 and 26 are made of low frictional material having high hardness.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 8, as follows:

As the bearing cover 80 and the screw 81 are formed separately from the housing body 11, ~~11A,~~ respectively, an axial length of the space 100, in which the disk shaped member is housed, is easily adjusted to an optimum value before the cylinder heads 12 and 13 are assembled to the housing body 11. Accordingly, even if the camshaft 70 moves in an opposite direction to a direction in which the helical gear 23 urges the camshaft 70 due to a reaction of the driving force from the crankshaft, there occur less hammer noises. Further, as the disk shaped member 71 generally slides only the washer 83 and does not slide the washer 84, frictional wear of the disk shaped member 71 is reduced.